

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A method of identifying a molecule that specifically binds to a ligand that is differentially expressed in cardiac hypertrophy tissue relative to normal cardiac tissue, wherein the ligand comprises a protein having at least 95% identity to a polypeptide sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:9, a fragment of the protein comprising a domain of the protein, or a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:9 or a nucleic acid encoding a fragment of a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:9 wherein the fragment comprises a domain of the protein, the method comprising:

- a) contacting said ligand in vitro with a plurality of molecules under conditions conducive to binding between said ligand and said molecules; and
- b) identifying a molecule within said plurality that specifically binds to said ligand.

51. (currently amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor of CHAG gene expression, comprising:

- a) contacting an isolated cell comprising a CHAG polynucleotide having at least 95% identity to a polypeptide encoded by comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9 with an antisense nucleic acid; and
- b) determining whether the antisense nucleic acid inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide; and
- c) identifying an antisense nucleic acid that inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide as an inhibitor of CHAG gene expression.

52. (canceled)

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein that antisense nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a catalytic RNA, a ribozyme, an antisense RNA, and a chimeric RNA-DNA analogue.

54-62. (canceled)

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein determining whether the antisense nucleic acid inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide comprises detecting expression of the CHAG polynucleotide using PCR, northern or southern blot in the presence or absence of the antisense nucleic acid.

64. (canceled)

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of cultured myocyte, isolated papillary muscle skinned fiber, and beating or arrested isolated perfused heart tissue subjected to pressure and volume-loading conditions.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 51, wherein the cell is a cultured myocyte.

67. (canceled)